Development of Postal and Telecommunication net work in Andhra Pradesh

553. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for the much needed improvements in proper development of Postal and Telecommunication net work in Andhra Pradesh have been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Plan proposals of 7th Five Year Plan for the postal depatment include opening of 12,000 post offices in the country including Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commissions approval of the plan proposal is yet to be finalised. The proposals are subject to modification based on the outlay approved by the Planning Commission. Targets however will be fixed after approval is received from the Planning Commission of the annual plan from year to year.

In regard to Telecommunications the Ministry had submitted draft proposals for the 7th Plan envisaging an outlay of Rs. 30,000 crores. The proposals are under discussion with the Planning Commission who have inidcated that the resources to this extent may not be available and the draft proposals will have to be scaled down substantially:

The draft plan had proposed to provide telephone and telex connections all over India including Andhra Pradesh practically on demand. This would have involved nearly doubling the telephone exchange capacity and substantial increase in the telex capacity. It also proposed provision of long distance public telephones within 5 Kms of most village habitation, involving an addition of 2,159 long distance public telephones to the existing 3735 in Andhra Pradesh.

In view of the limited resources, the proposal will be finalised once the total allocation has been agreed to.

Production of paper

554. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Country is self-sufficient in the production of paper;

(b) if not, what are the types of paper still being imported, the reasons therefor and the foreign exchange involved per year; and

(c) the steps, if any, being taken by Government to become self-sufficient in the production of paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Except for certain special varieties of paper, the demand for paper and paperboard in the country is met by indigenous production.

(b) The special varieties of paper being imported include paper required for printing of currency note, cigarette paper, filter paper, base paper, crepe paper, electrical grade paper/board, record paper etc.

The approximate value of special varieties of paper imported during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 (upto) December, 1982) is as follows:—

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	Value (approx)
1980-81	626.34
1981-82	680.81
1982-83 (up to Dec., 1982)	484 23